

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-10 DRC-01

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R 230901Z APR 74

FM USINT ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0394

INFO USMISSION USUN

CONFIDENTIAL ALGIERS 0832

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, CU, RQ, AG

SUBJ: PUERTO RICO IN UN: ALGERIAN PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENE'S
CUBAN SPEECH

REF: USUN 1409

1. ALGERIAN SUPPORT OF CUBA ON PUERTO RICAN ISSUE
WAS, AS NOTED ALGIERS 0817 WHICH CROSSED REFTEL, PART
OF ALGERIAN/CUBAN JOINT DECLARATION IN WHICH ALGERIA
SUBSCRIBED TO A NUMBER OF CUBAN POSITIONS RE US AND
LATIN AMERICA. WHEN WE HAVE DISCUSSED PUERTO RICAN
ISSUE WITH MIDDLE LEVEL ALGERIAN OFFICIALS IN PAST
THEY HAVE EXHIBITED CONSIDERABLE AMBIVALENCE ON
SUBJECT. AT TIMES THEY SEEMED GENUINELY CONFUSED
BY FACT, WHICH THEY REGISTER, THAT PUERTO RICAN PEOPLE
CONSISTENTLY VOTE STRONGLY AGAINST INDEPENDENCE
CANDIDATES. AT SAME TIME THEIR OWN EXPERIENCE,
WHERE FRENCH FOR YEARS GAVE IMPRESSION THAT VAST
MAJORITY OF ALGERIANS FAVERED LINKS WITH FRENCH,
LEADS THEM TO SUSPECT THAT APPARENT FACTS DO NOT
EXPLAIN ALL AND THAT IF TRUE FEELING OF PERTO RICAN
PEOPLE WERE EXPRESSED IT WOULD BE IN FAVOR OF
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INDEPENDENCE FOR ISLAND.

2. IN VIEW OF CONFUSED ALGERIAN THINKING EASY COURSE
FOR THEM IS TO GO ALONG IN SUPPORT OF WHAT THEY BELIEVE
MIGHT BE ASPECT OF WORLD LIBERATION MOVEMENT PARTICULARLY
WHEN SOCIALIST PARTY OF PUERTO RICO IS CARRYING THAT
STANDARD IN NON-ALIGNED GET-TOGETHERS. ALGERIAN
POSITION IS ALSO PART OF TRADE OFF FOR CUBAN SUPPORT
IN MIDDLE EAST.

3. BELIEVE THAT WHEN APPROPRIATE OCCASIONS ARISE IT
IS USEFUL FOR US TO BRING FACTS OF PUERTO RICAN
SITUATION TO ATTENTION ALGERIAN OFFICIALS. I WILL
PROBABLY HAVE OPPORTUNITY DO THIS WITH HAMDANI AT
PRESIDENCY AND BELIEVE USUN MIGHT ALSO USEFULLY SAY
SOMETHING TO RAHAL. LAST FALL WHEN ISSUE AROSE IN
CONNECTION WITH NON-ALIGNED CONVERENCE ALGERIAN
FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL SAID THEY WERE THINKING
OF SENDING PERSON OR PERSONS (PROBABLY FROM THEIR
UN MISSION) TO PUERTO RICO TO OBTAIN FACTS. THIS
MIGHT BE GOOD TIME TO SUGGEST THAT THEY DO JUST THAT
AND OFFER TO ASSIST WITH, BUT NOT ORGANIZE, THEIR
VISIT.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESIDENT, SPEECHES, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ALGIER00832
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740095-0411
From: ALGIERS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740423/aaaaatus.tel
Line Count: 84
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: USUN 1409
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 JUL 2002 by rowelle0>; APPROVED <26 MAR 2003 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PUERTO RICO IN UN: ALGERIAN PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENE'S CUBAN SPEECH
TAGS: PFOR, CU, RQ, AG, US, UN, (BOUMEDIENE, HOUARI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005